



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8  
999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 300  
DENVER, CO 80202-2466  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

EPR:ER

INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT  
Marathon Oil Pit Spill  
Pavillion, Fremont County, Utah

I. HEADING

Date: September 18, 2003  
Subject: Marathon Oil Pit Spill  
From: Martha Wolf, On-Scene Coordinator  
POLREP NO.: POLREP 1 (Initial)

II. BACKGROUND

Response Agency:	EPA Region VIII
Address:	999 18TH Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202-2466
Response Authority:	OPA, CWA, PA (1990)
Party Conducting the Action:	PRP - Marathon Oil
FPN NO.:	EO3808
OPA Project/Site No.	Z8AU
NRC No.:	653076
Date Started:	08/08/03
Completion Date:	TBD

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Site Description

1. Site Description:

The site is located approximately 28 miles southwest of Pavillion, Wyoming, in Section 6, Township 6N, Range 2W, Fremont County. Hydrocarbons have been flushed out of pits, constructed within the channel, and are scattered along the banks of Five Mile Creek.

2. Incident or Release

As the result of flooding rain on 7/28/03, silt flowed into what the facility calls Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasures (SPCC) pits, and they overflowed. The overflowing water flushed hydrocarbons out of the SPCC pits and carried them downstream. After the water receded, hydrocarbons were scattered along the banks of Five Mile Creek.



#### **IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION**

##### **A. Current Situation and Removal Actions to Date**

The PRP, Marathon Oil, immediately began response activities after the incident. Initial activities included the excavation & enlargement of the "SPCC" pits and hand raking of stream banks. Marathon Oil was under the impression that it was not necessary to report the incident, but when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at Lander, Wyoming, became aware of the incident, it was reported to the National Response Center on August 6, 2003. EPA was notified shortly thereafter.

EPA/START2 responded to the scene on August 7, 2003. Samples were taken from Five Mile Creek and its banks and are being analyzed to determine contamination levels. Further characterization and sampling have been conducted by Marathon Oil and its consultant. Personnel from BLM, the Wyoming Department of Wildlife Resources, and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) were on-site to evaluate the situation and coordinate the forthcoming Marathon remediation plan. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was contacted and apprised of site developments.

EPA and START demobilized from the site on August 7, 2003.

##### **B. Planned Removal Actions/Next Steps**

The OSC, WDEQ, Wyoming Fish and Wildlife Services, and tribal officials will follow-up on the remediation actions by the PRP. The "SPCC" pits do not presently meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and will be redesigned by the PRP as directed by the OSC.

##### **C. Enforcement**

To be determined. Interest has been expressed by EPA's Region 8 CID and Enforcement staff.

#### **V. KEY ISSUES**

From observations of the site, it will be necessary for the PRP to develop and coordinate a remediation plan that will address the restoration of natural resources and the proper management of contaminated materials generated by the release.

#### **VI. COST INFORMATION**

EPA initially opened the Oil Pollution Act Fund for \$15,000 for purposes of monitoring the cleanup. Estimates are not available at this time to project current and future costs.